

2026 Cologuard Classic



First-Round Notes

Friday, March 20, 2026

La Paloma Country Club | Tucson, Arizona

4th of 28 PGA TOUR Champions events in the 2026 Season

- **Course Setup:** Par 71 / 6,881 yards
- **Round 1 Scoring Average:** 70.333
- **Weather:** Sunny with highs near 102. Afternoon winds NW at 15 mph.
- **Interviews:** [Transcripts](#) | [Content Hub](#)
- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-Round Tee Times](#)
- [PGATOURMedia.com](#)

First-Round Leaderboard

| | Player | To Par | Scores |
|----|------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 | Bo Van Pelt | -9 | 62 |
| T2 | Thongchai Jaidee | -7 | 64 |
| T2 | Retief Goosen | -7 | 64 |

Things to Know

- 50-year-old **Bo Van Pelt** leads the field by two strokes after opening with 9-under 62 at the 2026 Cologuard Classic in Tucson, Arizona.

Bo Van Pelt, 62 (-9)

- Makes his debut at the 2026 Cologuard Classic (15th career start), carding a career-low 18 with 9-under 62.
 - Previous PGA TOUR Champions low: 65 (2025 Sanford International, Rd. 2)
 - Best first-round score: 4-under 66 at 2025 Sanford International (finished second)
- Holds the first 18-hole lead/co-lead of his Champions Tour career; held at least a share of the 18-hole lead nine times during his PGA TOUR career, failing to convert any of those to victory (runner-up, three times).
 - Woody Austin (2016) and Miguel Ángel Jiménez (2022) are the only first-round leaders/co-leaders to win the Cologuard Classic in tournament history.
- Made four career starts at the TOUR's Chrysler Classic of Tucson, posting a career-best T9 in his final appearance in 2006.
- Seeks to become the 25th player to win on the PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions and Korn Ferry Tour.
 - Wins by Tour: PGA TOUR (1 win), Korn Ferry Tour (1 win)
 - PGA TOUR: 2009 U.S. Bank Championship in Milwaukee
 - Korn Ferry Tour: 2003 Omaha Classic (previous Web.com Tour)
 - Most recent to accomplish this feat: Zach Johnson (2026 James Hardie Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational)

Other Notes

- Making his season and tournament debut, **Thongchai Jaidee** posts 7-under 64 (T2).
 - Owns two career victories on Tour: 2022 American Family Insurance Championship, 2023 PURE Insurance Championship
- World Golf Hall of Fame member **Retief Goosen** (64/T2) seeks his fifth PGA TOUR Champions victory in his seventh Cologuard Classic appearance, finishing the first round with a tournament-career-best 7-under 64.
- 68-year-old **Bernhard Langer** (T4) cards 6-under 65 to shoot his age or better for the 38th time on PGA TOUR Champions; World Golf Hall of Fame member won the 2020 Cologuard Classic; seeking the 48th win of his PGA TOUR Champions career and first since the 2024 Charles Schwab Cup Championship; notched at least one victory in 18 consecutive years (17 consecutive seasons) through 2024, but failed to win in 2025, recording six top-10 finishes including a T2 at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai.
- Three-time PGA TOUR Winner **Vaughn Taylor** (70/T34) makes his first start on PGA TOUR Champions after turning 50 on March 9, 2026.

- TOUR wins: AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (2016), Barracuda Championship (2004-05)
- Defending champion **Steven Alker** posts even-par 71 to sit T45; seeks to become the first champion in tournament history to successfully defend his title.
- Tournament host and 13-time Champions Tour winner **Jerry Kelly** cards 2-under 69 (T25)
- Highest temperatures in Cologuard Classic history, reaching afternoon highs up to 102.
 - Previous record: High of 82 (Rd. 2, 2019)